

(b) Yes, Sir. The organization has taken up a proposal for creating portable ramps and a stair lift that would help persons with disabilities in functional independence and mobility.

(c) The Government considers these and efforts made by other organizations and individuals as contribution in design, development and awareness generation on barrier free features.

(d) The Government proposes to continue supporting various organizations and individuals through its schemes (including Science and Technology Project in Mission Mode) and policy initiatives, for creating a barrier free environment.

News-item regarding compilation of Data on Senior Citizens

2484. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have studied the contents of the news-item captioned "Police to compile data on senior citizens" which appeared in the Hindustan Times, dated 8th February, 2001;

(b) whether the senior citizens have now the biggest fear of prolonged life and feeling insecure as they are neglected by their kith and kin;

(c) whether the record of senior citizens residing within the respective jurisdiction of the Kotwali as per directions have since been taken in hand by the Commissioner of Police, Delhi; and

(d) if so, by when the information would be available so as to provide senior citizens with ample security?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As a result of changing demographic profile of the country accompanied by a new societal order, the Government is of the understanding that the senior citizens face a number of problems including those related to neglect by their kith and kin.

(c) As per the directions of the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi in

[19 March, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

Criminal Writ Petition No. 723/2000, the Commissioner of Police, Delhi has directed all SHOs of each and every Police Station to keep a record of Senior Citizens residing within their jurisdiction and provide adequate security to the life and property of such citizens.

(d) As reported by the Office of the Commissioner of Police, Delhi they have already started the work of collecting and maintaining a record of senior citizens residing within the jurisdiction of every Station House Officer (SHO) and that it is an ongoing process.

Increase in percentage of reservation for SCs

2485. SHRI P. SOUNDARARAJAN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government are contemplating enhancing the percentage of reservation to Scheduled Castes in the country in educational institutions and for employment in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) by when it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI):

(a) to (c) The National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes has requested the Central Government to consider increasing of percentage of reservation in services and educational institutions for SCs/STs. This matter is under consideration. As this is a policy matter and will require wide ranging discussion, no time frame can be given for deciding the matter.

Goods train carrying cows and calves for slaughter

2486. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in Rashtriya Sahara, dated 29th December, 2000 to the effect that 600 cows and calves being taken